



Costa Rica

VOLUNTEER



World Endeavors in Costa Rica

Costa Rica is a place of unprecedented natural beauty. This small Central American country, situated between Nicaragua to the north and Panama to the south, is home to an amazing 5% of the world's biodiversity. Costa Rica is known for its lush mountains, cool cloud forests, clean rivers, cascading waterfalls, volcanoes and pristine beaches.

World Endeavors volunteer programs in Costa Rica allow participants to experience all that Costa Rica has to offer while aiding local communities and learning Spanish.



VOLUNTEER **in Costa Rica**

The Costa Rican diet consists of many exotic fruits and vegetables as well as fish and chicken. Red meat and pork are not as common. The national dish, gallo pinto, is made of black beans and rice and is usually served for breakfast!

Overview

Costa Rica's vibrant culture, amazing biodiversity, and breathtaking landscapes make it one of the ideal destinations in Latin America. This small Central American country of 3.5 million human inhabitants is also home to 5% of the world's biodiversity. Visiting the ticos or native people living in rural farming communities gives one the feeling of going back in time.

Despite its beauty and wonderful people, Costa Rica still experiences the problems of many Latin American countries. Non-profit support is lacking and volunteers are needed. Also, with tourism ranking as Costa Rica's main industry, English education and environment conservation are essential.

World Endeavors offers an exciting program that allows participants to experience Costa Rica in a meaningful way while contributing to its future. Volunteer and study Spanish with World Endeavors in Atenas, Costa Rica.

Atenas is a quaint town located in the central highlands roughly 45 minutes from the capital city of San José. The town of roughly 5,000 is made up of many surrounding communities that base their livelihood on growing coffee, oranges and mangos. Costa Rican history, tradition and culture are deeply rooted here. Atenas is very clean and picturesque with a laid-back atmosphere.

Program Snapshot

- **Location:** Atenas, Costa Rica
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Teaching, orphanage assistance, environmental conservation, wildlife conservation, or community development projects
- **Duration:** 2 weeks to 3 months
- **Orientation:** Included
- **Housing:** Home stay (3 meals per day plus laundry)
- **Language Training:** 2 weeks of Spanish for placements of 1 month or longer
- **Cultural Activities:** Included
- **Key Features:** Beautiful country, great volunteer projects

Cost and Dates

Please refer to the table at the back of this catalog. As this information is subject to change, visit www.worldendeavors.com for the most current program costs and dates.

What's Included

- Pre-departure packet to prepare you for your placement
- World Endeavors support for any of your pre-trip questions
- In-country travel coordination

- Accommodations (3 meals per day with a local family)
- Support from local World Endeavors representatives
- 2 weeks of Spanish language training (for programs 4 weeks and longer)
- Cultural activities (cooking class, dance class)
- Volunteer placement
- 24 x 7 Emergency phone support

What's Not Included

- Round-trip airfare to Costa Rica
- Visa expenses and airport taxes
- Personal expenses including daily transportation and food costs

Optional Activities

- Excursions
- Extended Spanish language instruction

Volunteer Programs

Teaching Children

Volunteers help shape young lives in Costa Rica by sharing their English skills and teaching talents. They teach English along with many other subjects to elementary school children from 5-12 years of age. During the first week of classes, volunteers will shadow a local teacher to become familiar with the school, the children, and the curriculum. If the volunteer is ready at the beginning of the second week, he or she may begin teaching independently.

Orphanage Assistance

Orphans are deprived of many opportunities necessary for their development. Through education and compassion, children are empowered to challenge a life of further poverty and exploitation. Volunteers focus on educational training which consists primarily of English language classes. Volunteers' active participation in programs such as health education, games, drawing, and painting is encouraged. With such a variety of ways to participate, the orphanage experience provides volunteers many meaningful ways to approach service.

Environmental Conservation

Costa Rica, despite its small size, is one of the most biologically diverse places on earth. Yet environmental degradation is a major threat to this unique and fragile place. Problems such as loss of bio-diversity, deforesta-

tion, desertification, soil erosion, over-fishing, and pollution are significant. Environmental conservation projects address these issues directly through community education and collaboration.

Wildlife Conservation

The loss of natural habitats along with human population growth has put increased pressure on wildlife in Costa Rica. One project in particular focuses on rescue and rehabilitation of parrots, macaws, and other native tropical birds. Another project allows volunteers to work on a sea turtle conservation project.

Community Development

Volunteers will assist local communities in Costa Rica with projects that focus on community development. Activities may include home or school renovation or may involve efforts to support sustainable eco-tourism in rural areas.

Program Highlights

Language and Culture Orientation

Upon arrival in Costa Rica, volunteers are met at the airport and taken to their host family's home in Atenas. They will receive an orientation that will familiarize them with Atenas and the surrounding area, the Costa Rican culture, and their program. For placements of one-month or longer, participants will receive two weeks of Spanish language training.

Once the placement begins, participants will receive an additional mini-orientation at the project site that focuses on project opportunities and responsibilities. For those doing two to three week programs, Spanish instruction may be added on to the program. For those doing one month programs additional Spanish instruction may be added as well.

Optional Excursions

Participants will have the option to enjoy the natural beauty of Costa Rica through guided excursions. These day trip excursions are guided by the local staff. Excursions include a beach visit, volcano trip, theater performance at the National Theater in San José, museum tour and tour of San José, and national park visits. Details about current excursions are available to volunteers after arrival in Costa Rica.